

Town of Vernon
Hockanum River Linear Park Committee

Draft Copy

Minutes – September 23, 2011

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11 NOV 17 AM 9:04

Present: Members: Joe King, Ann Letendre, George Arthur
Staff: Bruce Dinnie

The meeting was held at the Lottie Fisk Building, South St. and was called to order at 9:40 am by Ann Letendre, chairperson.

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of July 22, 2011 meeting were approved. Motion by Arthur, second by Gingras.

2. Old Business

A. Vernon-Ellington Marsh Trail Grant Project

- a. Refer to Arthur report for details. Of note, George says the kiosk needs information, trail maps, and suggests a write-up citing source of funding for the project, etc. Also noted, damage from hurricane Irene on the trails has been cleaned up.
- b. HRLP Committee should meet with Ellington HRLP. Ann talk to Lori Spielman also. Ann will make a call and arrange.

B. Hockanum Trail Reports

- a. Don Bellingham, Vernon Greenways Volunteers Report, attached
- b. George Arthur (Parks & Rec activity) – See Arthur report, attached

C. Hockanum River Parks & Parking Areas – Review of Needs refer to Bellingham and Arthur reports attached for work completed. Of note – a tree on the loop trail Dart Hill North was removed; Walgreen Corner was cleaned; several downed trees at Saxony were removed. A lot of litter is noted behind the Pauls' Pizza parking area. Bruce will call Health Department. Ann and Ginny will walk Franklin trail w/ George, at a time TBD.

- Dart Hill South and Dart Hill North
- Walgreen Corner
- Saxony Mill Park
- Paper Mill Park
- Tankerhoosen Dam Park
- Franklin St
- Other Parking Areas

D. New Parks and Trails – Status (refer to Bellingham and Arthur reports)

- a. Vernon Marsh
- b. Lyman to Pleasant St to Courthouse One. The key property owner is the Giuliatti family, but connections cannot be made. Listed phone numbers do not get answered. Suggestion is to ask Amy if she has any thoughts. Send a registered letter?

E. New Grant Applications

- a. Grant application was submitted for Pleasantview Marsh boardwalk and bridge at Vernon marsh for \$150,000 by the Friends HRLP. Laurie Giannotti has said that award is likely to be forthcoming. Bruce noted that a new bridge has been installed on the Manchester Charter Oak Trail – that might also be used for this project. We need to contact Manchester to find more details.
- b. Dart Hill Park – playscape replacement – Bruce says will cost \$75,000. He has no money in the budget for that, we will need grant sources.
- c. Consider extending Rockville Heritage Trail to Talcott Park area; Ann will ask Laurie Giannotti about funding possibilities.

F. River Protection: Actions, Public Education – No new information.

3. New Business

RDA Collaboration on Mill Pond Park and Falls Lighting – The brush has been cleared so the falls are now more visible. The preliminary design work for the overlook has been completed under grant funding from the CT Trust and CT Main Street programs. * Some remaining grant funds will be used to install a fence at the parking area near Dan's warehouse.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am, motion by George, second by Joe.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Letendre, Chairperson

HRLP 9/23/11 MTG – ARTHUR REPORT – 2Bb
(See Agenda for item designations)

2Aa Current grant status

- Kiosk in place – no info
- Trail sign – not in place
- Kayak dock – George is working on IWC application
- Trail bridge - George is working on IWC application
- Two vistas and benches – complete
- Stairway - complete

2Ab Connection to Ellington via bridge on RR line – no change from 7/22/2011

- Formal permission for the trail needs to be obtained from the Town of Ellington. The river property is owned by the Town of Vernon
- The bridge plans need to be presented to Vernon IWC.
- It is doubtful that the use of telephone poles would be acceptable for a bridge over the Hockanum River.
- The funding for a steel bridge of this span will have to be obtained from grants.

2Bb P&R trail activity:

- All bridges and boardwalks are serviceable. The southern ramp on the Valley Falls bridge still needs minor adjustment.
- All trails are in good shape – many trees down from hurricane Irene have been cut.

2C Hockanum Parks & Parking Areas

- Dart Hill South – Stone dust connecting trail to Hockanum Blvd is complete.
- Dart Hill North – One tree needs cutting on loop trail.
- Walgreen Corner – Fence line vistas are still clear..
- Saxony Mill –Trail to Sycamores was cleared and many down trees were cut up.
- Paper Mill Park - Minor re-growth on fence needs attention.
- Paul's Pizza – Litter from UTAV Indian Restaurant and brush dumping by Briar Knoll Condos still has not been addressed.

2D New Parks and trails

- Vernon Marsh – See 2Aa above

- Franklin St – Has not been inspected for down trees after hurricane.
- Lyman to Pleasant St. See 3b.
- Pleasant St. to Courthouse One. See 3a.

Respectfully submitted,

George Arthur

VERNON GREENWAYS VOLUNTEERS REPORT

July 22, 2011 to September 23, 2011

Walking Trail at Dart Hill South

Approximately 1/3 mile of base fiber and stone dust purchased with our Pratt Whitney Grant were put down by Public Works from the tree line as you exit DHS Park to Hockanum Blvd. The new stone dust survived Irene in what was previously a high flood area. Two work parties widened the Walking Trail in the wooded area near the playground to make it more user friendly.

Plantings on the Rail Trail

Perennials refreshed for the fall with plants obtained from Gerri's, Tracy's and my gardens. Grass weed whacked immediately around all six plantings.

Tunnel Road Parking Area

Tunnel Road planting completed with fall plants and historical plaque installed.

Weed Whacking Crew

Eight weed whacking outings completed on the hiking trails using one to three VGVs for each.

Hurricane Irene

Trail Managers, particularly for the hiking trails (DHN, DHS, VCMS, Walker's Reservoir), cleaned up debris and reported downed trees to me that were forwarded on to Parks and Rec for action.

Braille Trail Working Party

A church from South Windsor spread 10 yards of mulch on the dirt portions of the Braille Trail. We ordered mulch through Parks and Rec, made sure they had the tools they needed and made sure they knew what they needed to do.

VCMS Blazes

Blue Blazes were refreshed via a work party on the VCMS Trail.

Beetle Mania

Second outing of the year looking for Asian Longhorn Beetles and Emerald Ash Borers on Rails to Trails picked up where the first left off. None spotted. A third should be completed before the end of our season.